

# The Gold Book

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College Survival  
Guide

COLLEGE SURVIVAL GUIDE

# THE GOLD BOOK

VOLUME #2

# COLLEGE SURVIVAL GUIDE

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# COLLEGE SURVIVAL GUIDE

## VOLUME #2

### Guide About How To Properly Handle Police Encounters

**#DrivingWhileBlack** is a real thing in America. You may think you are exempt, this issue has touched many people. The Black students, faculty, and staff have all been stopped even though they felt that they have done nothing wrong. I want you to make it to your destination safely, so please do not argue with the police! Some police are known to escalate incidents and honestly, you will have a better chance of getting whatever ticket/charges dropped with a judge than for than you to argue your case during the traffic stop.

#### **If you get stopped by the police, please understand these potential preconceived notions:**

- The officer may be afraid because you are Black
- Some officers may not treat you fairly

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## Guide About How To Properly Handle Police Encounters

If you get stopped:

- 1** Make sure that your hands are noticeable, do not start reaching for anything unless asked. DO NOT GET OUT THE CAR. NO SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.
- 2** Make sure to drop your location and inform somebody that you have been pulled over.
- 3** Be polite and respectful. (Easiest way to finesse out the situation)
- 4** If you feel like the officer is doing an injustice towards you memorize the badge number and their name. (Write it down in your phone, text it to someone, write it down in your car, SOMETHING to remember it)
- 5** If the police ask to search the car without probable cause (scent of weed is ENOUGH for probable cause) ask what the reason would be, and inform them that you may not be comfortable getting out of the car. They may ask you to sit in their vehicle, you can request to stand on the side of the road as they search your car.
- 6** Read over anything that you sign and ask for clarification if you sign it.

Please understand that there is a RANGE of authority for on campus policing. Some campus police are more like security guards with only campus authority. Other police officers have the same authority of a sheriff. TREAT THEM ALL WITH RESPECT. Understand that these campus police can/will enforce aspects of the law if they feel threatened or tried. Tread lightly!

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## **How to Deal with Curious, Uninformed, and Racist Individuals**

All skin folk, ain't kinfolk and all non-Black people are not out for your demise! In predominantly white spaces, especially Predominately White Institutions, you may find some people who have never interacted with Black people and that is ok! Those who belong to minoritized communities (disability, LGBTQIA+, non-Christians, and non-Black Americans) may also receive questions/strange interactions from other Black people.

Black people come in all shapes, sizes, experiences and identities, so you can have Blacks who are curious as well as ignorant when it comes to cultures different than their own. You will need to know that some people may feel comfortable enough to ask you questions and others may purposely make you want to feel uncomfortable. I will explain the difference between curious, ignorant, and racist individuals. Please remember, IT IS NOT ILLEGAL TO BE RACIST. You are not protected by the law if you decide to assault (that's what you will be charged with) person for calling you a nigg\*r.

You can get exhausted (trust me, I really did try) attempting to properly educate or deconstruct someone's racist foundations. Please understand that in order for many to accept racism means to acknowledge that their family and sometimes the way one was brought up was wrong. You could be questioning someone's entire foundation. A 30 minute conversation of insight and enlightenment may often just get YOU labeled as different, an anomaly.

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## How to Deal with Curious, Uninformed, and Racist Individuals

I have broken down the types of individuals into three groups because they are different, and that should assist with your discernment of the types:

**Curious:** This group of people will be very inquisitive. Curiosity may seem annoying but some people just want to know more about your culture. They may ask questions that may seem like common sense, but are seeking more insight.

**Uninformed:** This group of people will be inquisitive with some biases. These are the questioners that may make you mad. They may have negative assumptions about you and what you do solely based on your race, but want to receive clarification.

**Racist:** This group of people fundamentally believe that because of your race and the characteristics associated with your race that you are inferior to theirs. They believe They use stereotypes and biases to justify the mistreatment and oppression of Blacks.

\*Fun fact: You cannot be a part of an oppressed racial group and be racist! Black people are unable to control the systems to enforce racism...thanks for coming to my PriTalk\*

**YOU DO NOT OWE ANYONE ANYTHING. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SPEAK ON YOUR EXPERIENCE IF YOU ARE UNCOMFORTABLE.**

**Note: If you feel like you have been discriminated against or involved in an incident regarding an identity-related bias, REPORT IT! Noone can unjustify how a situation made you feel, and you may not be the only person who feels this way. Your institution should have policies and protocols for bias reporting! If you feel the need to go to the police, GO!**

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**Below is a brief glossary and examples as it relates to biases (most definitions provided by <https://students.wustl.edu/glossary-bias-terms/>):**

**Bias:** a specific prejudice that is in favor or against a specific group of people compared to other groups.

**Ex.** People from Chicago are the best or people from Chicago are lazy

**Explicit bias\*:** when one consciously holds specific beliefs, assumptions, and attitudes about a person or a group

**Ex.** White supremacy groups, like the KKK

**Implicit bias:** when one rejects the stereotypes of a group and subconsciously hold negative associations of a specific group

**Ex.** Assuming a person with tattoos and piercings has a criminal background

**Macroaggressions\*:** Open and purposeful aggression towards a specific person because of their identity

**Ex.** Anti-LGBTQIA+ rallying at Pride parade

**Marginalized:** an unaccepted or excluded group of a community or society

**Ex.** Racial, people in poverty, people with disabilities, felons, homeless, etc.

**Micro-aggression:** small insults of a minoritized person that was intended as a compliment, but has underlying message (commenter may not know what they said may have affected you)

**Ex.** “You speak well for a Black girl from Chicago”

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**Prejudice:** a preconceived notion about a person because of the group(s) one assumes a person belongs, usually derives from negative bias

**Ex.** a 40-year-old is too old to try to learn something new

**Stereotype:** blanket beliefs that are born from prejudice about members of a specific group that are highly generalized and usually negative.

**Ex.** All members of the LGBTQIA+ community are overly sexual or flamboyant

**System of Oppression:** “conscious and unconscious, nonrandom, and organized harassment, discrimination, exploitation, discrimination, prejudice and other forms of unequal treatment that impact different groups”

**Ex.** Pick a system (education, health care, justice, etc.) you will always find huge differences between races, usually not in favor for Blacks

**IT’S NOT MADE FOR YOU TO WIN, which is exactly why you have to!**

**\*: <https://perception.org/research>**

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## Networking and its Importance

**“Your network is your net worth”** is a quote my best friend/spirit animal Jay-z. This quote means the people you surround yourself with in your different circles (network) determines how deep in your bag you will get (net worth)! People know people, and remember all CEOs and experts had a first day in the workplace. Many people will be happy to assist a young professional who has interest in their field. A simple email or DM could lead to different opportunities! Through my network: I have received jobs, educational opportunities, and connected with senior professionals of careers that I believed I wanted to pursue! I will provide a few tips to networking that have aided me throughout my years:

### In-person

#### Before an event:

#### **Create an elevator speech specific to the person/people you want to talk to**

- For example, if you are at a job fair you should discuss the skill sets you have as well as what skills you are seeking to develop

#### **Google the speakers/notable attendees**

LinkedIn is an amazing tool for use in preparation

Find a simple commonality or a question about their journey

#### **At an event:**

Actively seek out those speakers who you want to have a conversation with. Good times to try to converse are during a break of a conference or during happy hours. Find a good down time when you both are not rushing. Introduce yourself to the person/people using your elevator speech and propose your question or start to discuss your commonalities. Thank the person for their time and ask if you can have their contact information and if it is okay to reach out with any questions. Always ask for a card or to add them on LinkedIn

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### **After the event:**

Figure out what you want from the person/people

- Informational interview, possible mentor, career advice, etc.

Send an email that includes: a thank you, a spark reminder of the conversation, and request what you will like

Now...you wait

**Please understand that sometimes your email may get lost, especially if they are busy people! Do not take it personally, you did all that you can do, so do not let that get you down! (Follow-up in two weeks, though).**

## **Virtual Reach Out**

Send an email/DM to reach out to a person of interest. You should start with a less wordy version of your elevator speech. From there you should discuss your purpose of reaching out to the person and how they may be able to assist you.

Reaching out virtually is HARDER. E-mails for sure get lost or some people do not respond. A lack of a response does not equal your worth or give you reason to give up on your dreams. Keep going!

# COLLEGE SURVIVAL GUIDE

## **It's more than the 2020 Election. Get Registered. Go Vote.**

Submitted by Tevon Blair

I am not here to tell you who to vote for or how to vote; however, I am encouraging you to become registered to vote to have the ability to vote when the time does come. Often, we hear people say, “my vote does not matter,” and when we hear this, we should take the time out to listen to people to figure what matters to them. Make politics personal. Regardless if you are a democrat, republican, independent, or a supporter of any other party on the spectrum, you need to be involved in civic engagement on the local, state, and federal levels. When you hear someone say "civic engagement" they are speaking about your involvement on issues that impact public concern.

Encouraging Black people to vote starts with voter education. We can tell people to register to vote and go to vote, but we miss out on actually educating voters before they get to the polls. Voter education is crucial because it allows people to gain basic knowledge about how they can participate in the voting process.

As an FYI, being in college, you will be in the classroom with people with different political beliefs than you. I'll give you the advice to agree to disagree. Save yourself the energy.

### **Important steps to remember:**

Register to Vote Based on where you live in the country, your state (whether you are registering at home or in the state where you attend college) could have different rules and guidelines on registering to vote. Unfortunately, we live in a country where automatic voter registration does not exist in every state, so it is vital to register to vote before the deadline. If you are registered, encourage your friends and family to check their status and register to vote, if needed.

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## **Know Who is on The Ballot**

It's politics, so you aren't going to like everyone. Please get that out of your head. It is essential to know who is on the ballot from the county board of education to the city council to the mayor to state representative. All of these positions make an impact in our communities. Take some time out of your day to research the candidates on the ballot. And see how their platform aligns with your personal beliefs.

## **Vote in your local, state, and federal elections.**

We must elect leaders who put the people of their community first. Someone once told me, "voting does not fix everything, but it is something." The work happens after election day. Charge these leaders to do their jobs and hold them accountable.

For now, start to discuss your plan as to how you will vote in your local, state, and federal elections. If we truly want change, we must vote.

